

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 0481

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, AU
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION - DR. ERNST HOFFMAN, DIRECTOR
AUSTRIAN CENTRAL NARCOTICS OFFICE

1. DR. ERNST HOFFMAN IS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL NARCOTICS OFFICE IN CRIMINAL POLICE DIVISION OF THE AUSTRIAN INTERIOR MINISTRY. HE WAS APPOINTED TO THIS POSITION IN FEBRUARY 1972 AFTER SERVICE FROM 1965 TO 1972 AS LEGAL DIRECTOR FOR THE VIENNA POLICE NARCOTICS SECTION. HE NOT ONLY DIRECTS NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES OF ALL AUSTRIAN POLICE BUT IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING OF OTHER AUSTRIAN ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE GENDARMERIE AND THE CUSTOMS SERVICES OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

2. DR. HOFFMAN IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN DRUG ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND OFTEN CONDUCTS TRAINING SEMINARS PERSONALLY. HE REPRESENTS AUSTRIA AT ALL INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCES AND IS A MEMBER OF THE U.S.-SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION. HE THUS TRAVELS FREQUENTLY AND WIDELY, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE AUSTRIA. IN 1976 HE VISITED AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH EAST ASIA FOR SEVERAL WEEK IN CONNECTION WITH NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES, AND IN OCTOBER 1976 TRAVELED TO WASHINGTON, SEATTLE, SAN DIEGO, TEXAS AND
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NEW ORLEANS ON A FOUR-WEEK SENIOR EXECUTIVE OBSERVATION PROGRAM OF THE U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA).

3. DR. HOFFMAN IS THE PRINCIPAL AUSTRIAN CONTACT FOR DEA SPECIAL AGENTS AT VIENNA. HE HAS A VERY POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AND U.S.

GOVERNMENT DRUG ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES. HE HAS COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH DEA AGENTS IN JOINT IN-COUNTRY AND OUT-OF-COUNTRY DRUG ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACTIVITIES AND IN PROMOTING COOPERATION IN THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT FIELD WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

4. DR. HOFFMAN WAS BORN SEPTEMBER 8, 1926, IN VIENNA. FOLLOWING MILITARY SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II, HE JOINED THE VIENNA POLICE FORCE IN 1946. WHILE SO ENGAGED, HE STUDIED AT VIENNA UNIVERSITY AND RECEIVED HIS DOCTORATE IN LAW IN 1954. HIS FIRST WIFE, WITH WHOM HE HAD NO CHILDREN, DIED SEVERAL YEARS AGO. HIS SECOND WIFE, SONYA, IS TEN YEARS YOUNGER THAN HE. THEY HAVE ONE DAUGHTER, TANYA, ABOUT ONE AND A HALF YEARS OLD. DR. AND MRS. HOFFMAN ARE CATHOLICS. DR. HOFFMAN ENJOYS TRAVEL, PHOTOGRAPHY AND HIKING. HE READS AND COMPREHENDS SPOKEN ENGLISH REASONABLY WELL

5. PHOTO POUCHES. BUCHANAN

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